

# THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR

**Journal of American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30** 

On the Web: www.wu30.org

Third Quarter 2006

# Philatelic Journalism of Yore

By Alan Warren

Harry M. Konwiser's name is familiar to philatelic historians who recall his books as well as his column on postmarks that

appeared in *Stamps* magazine between 1933 and 1954. However, at the age of 19 he was already a writer and editor, but not in philately.

In September 1898, Konwiser, shown at the far right, introduced a new magazine, The Dewey, named in honor of George Dewey (Dec. 26, 1837-Jan. 16, 1917). Dewey an admiral of the U.S. Navy, is best known for his victory without the loss of a single life of his own forces at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. In the first issue, Konwiser described The Dewey as "An Amateur Monthly Published in the Interest of Amateur Journalism." He invited criticism from read-

ers but iterated that he did not want to have squabbles "pollute our pages." The magazine measured 6 by 9 inches.

He asked writers to submit articles, poetry, and short stories, and accepted advertising, as reflected in the pages of this first issue. He even offered to return unused manuscripts at his own expense. Subscription rates for *The Dewey* were 15 cents for a year or eight cents for six months, not bad for an eight-page magazine with stiff covers. In addition to his duties with *The Dewey*, he also edited two other journals, *The Bomb* and *The Journalist*.

Despite the seeming non-philatelic content, there was a glimpse of the hobby in the first issue. In an interesting article, author Herbert Gile described how he was captured twice by Rebel forces in 1862 but managed to escape both times. Turning

to the advertisements on the last page, Gile has an ad inviting subscriptions to his journal, *Bay State Philatelist*. This Massachusetts resident offered an annual subscription to his journal for 17 cents and also sent a postage stamp of the Cuban Republic as a

reward to new subscribers.

Next to Gile's ad is one from publisher J. H. Chandler offering yet another journal, the *New England Philatelist*, at 15 cents per year. Philatelic journalism was thriving at the turn of the 20th century.

And what was Gile's *Bay State Philatelist* like? It measured only 4½ by 5¾ inches. Volume I, No. 4, dated November 1898, consisted of 10 pages bound in a cover with two staples. The pagination reflects that of the entire volume, for this issue has pages 17–26. The lead article by Leon V. Cass, *Philately 35 Years Ago*, reflects on the early days of stamp collecting when many enthusiasts clipped per-

THE DEWEY

TO Realities Marketing

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forations from stamps to make them look *nicer*.

Even more interesting, in light of today's discussions on the future of philately, is an observation by Gile, "Look at the small number of collectors and dealers of 35 years ago and then at the vast army of collectors and dealers of to-day and who will then say that philately 'is on its last legs." Cass also advised collectors to buy stamps "now" rather than waiting because they will not get any cheaper.

In a *Canadian Notes* column, John Hulme Lowe reported on a recent meeting of the Philatelic Club of Toronto. He was also a dealer and ran an ad offering 35 varieties of Canada stamps for 25 cents including "Beaver issue, Registers, Jubilees, Maple Leaf Issue, etc."

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#### Albert W. Starkweather, Editor

5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa, FL 33624-2847 phone: 813-962-7964; www.starkweatherdesign.com e-mail: astarkweather@starkweatherdesign.com

#### **Daniel A. Piazza, Associate Editor**

753 James St. #1126, Syracuse, NY 13203-2413 phone: 315-476-8052; e-mail: dpiazza@twcny.rr.com

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#### **APS WRITERS UNIT #30**

#### Peter D. Martin, President

P.O. Box 4503, Danbury, CT 06813 e-mail: pmartin2020@aol.com

#### George B. Griffenhagen, Secretary-Treasurer

2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180-6906

phone: 703-560-2413 e-mail: qqriffenhaqen@aphanet.org

#### **Barth Healey, Vice President East**

220 Montauk Hwy., Apt. 16, P. O. Box 277, Speonk NY 11972-0277

e-mail: healey@nytimes.com

#### **Kenneth Trettin, Vice President West**

P.O. Box 56, Rockford, IA 50468-0056 e-mail: revenuer@omnitelcom.com The **Executive Committee** includes the officers. Editor Albert W. Starkweather, and Immediate Past President Dane S. Claussen of Pittsburgh, PA. The WU #30 Council includes:

Lloyd de Vries	lloyd@virtualstampclub.com (2007)
Ernest E. (Gene) Fricks	genefricks@comcast.net (2009)
James W. Graue	jimg@icehouse.net (2007)
Ronald E. Lesher	revenuer@dmv.com (2007)
Robert P. Odenweller	RP0denwel@cs.com (2009)
Steven J. Rod	sjrod@ao.com (2009)

#### Writers Unit #30 Committee chairs are:

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# Albert W. Starkweather Editor's Domain

# What, No White Rabbit?

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

Lewis Carroll's alter ego, Alice, was right. A book without pictures can be pretty boring. I once redesigned a daily newspaper that had gained notoriety by running front pages sans photos. When I became editor of the STAMP INSIDER, the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies' journal, photographic illustrations were a rarity, as was also the case with THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR.

One of my major priorities

with both publications has



Scott #3919 issued in 2005

been to greatly increase the number, quality, and appropriateness of illustrations.

I strongly urge contributors to The Philatelic Communicator to include illustrations with their articles as did Alan Warren in his cover article on the early days of philatelic journalism. I was able to kick it up by including a photo of the legendary Harry M. Konwiser.

The higher quality kaolin-coated paper now being used by Wilcox Printing and Publishing, along with their use of my highresolution digital files ensures that readers will see the best image quality possible. This has permitted us to include a gallery of photos from the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition and to schedule another gallery from STAMP SHOW 2006, including the Writers Unit #30 Breakfast, for our fourth quarter issue.

My father and I are co-authoring an article for the fourth quarter issue on digital photography and photo editing for those who are unfamiliar or not totally comfortable with the technology.

#### **Looking To the Future**

Along with the expansion of THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR, I would like to be able to print at least some pages in full color. Several readers have pointed out the irony of running It's A Color World These Days in a monochrome publication the last time around.

I have been able to arrange for spot blue to be used on the front and back covers of the journal in an attempt to brighten its appearance. Both the change in paper and use of spot color have added relatively little to our production costs. Full color would bring a substantive increase in cost.

# Looking Forward To StampShow 2006

The American Philatelic Society's *STAMPSHOW 2006* at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Illinois, from August 24–27 should be a tremendous affair.

Chicago is a great stamp town and I expect another great turnout at our traditional Sunday breakfast that starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Hyatt Hotel United A-B rooms on August 27. As we were going to press, Breakfast Committee Chairman Ron Lesher was putting the final touches on the program for the event and details appear on page 4. The Writer's Unit #30 Council meeting will follow immediately after the breakfast from about 10 to 11:30 a.m.

#### Happenings

The unit is moving forward on a variety of fronts and I'll have a full report at the breakfast.

I'm pleased to report that *THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR* editorial transition to Albert W. Starkweather has been seamless and his first issue has received raves from many of you. He promises more innovations and excellent content in future issues.

The awards committee, headed by Bob Odenweller, is in the process of finalizing our agreement with the American Philatelic Society to sponsor the *STAMPSHOW* Literature Grand award. He is also working on streamlining the awards presentations at the Writers Unit breakfast.



# Peter Martin President's Message

The draft Writer's Unit #30 Hall of Fame guidelines will be reviewed for adoption by the Writer's Unit Council. It is the first effort to codify the Hall of Fame nomination and selection process. One major change in procedures will be to announce the inductees prior to the breakfast so that they can plan to attend and to be on hand for the presentation. The Hall of Fame is the unit's highest honor.

I am pleased to announce that the 2006 class of Joe Foley and Bob Odenweller have been selected for induction in Rosemont. Their induction biographies appear on page 5.

Don't forget to visit Writers Unit #30's new Web site at www.wu3o.org.Webmaster Andrew McFarlane has done a great job. If you have ideas for things you'd like to see on the site, contact Andrew, Web Committee Chairman John Cropper or me.

Send comments or ideas for improving the WU #30 to me at PMARTIN2020@AOL.COM or P. O. Box 4503, Danbury, CT 06813. See you at the show!



# Letters To the Editor

#### **Reactions To Our Makeover**

#### Wow

THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR arrived yesterday. The new look is amazing! Nice job, and what a nice surprise. I'm also amazed at the quickness of getting out the information about Joe.

Janet Klug, President, APS

#### Whooo-whoo!

I just got my copy, and it looks great! This is the first copy in several years that will get saved by me, and probably by a lot of other members as well.

Ada M. Prill, Vice President, APS

#### Show Off!

And this is a compliment. The color in the *Stamp Insider* is beautiful. You've done a wonderful job. I also really liked your first issue of *THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR*. What more can I say except that I thank you for what you are doing for philately.

Karen Weigt, Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

#### **Super Terrific Job**

Joe's probably looking down, smiling.

Gene Fricks

#### **Awesome Start**

The look and feel (with that coated stock) are very refreshing and the entire piece is nicely laid out with good quality graphics to boot. Thanks also for the nice profile of the late Joe Foley. He will be sorely missed by many of us who worked with him over the years.

Alan Warren

#### **Handsome Publication!**

Should be a great draw for new members at *WASHINGTON 2006*. Nice pairing of Lifsey's essay with my listings.

Barth Healey

#### **Great Job**

Congratulations and keep up the good work. The new *PHILA-TELIC COMMUNICATOR* is outstanding.

J. Kevin Doyle

#### **Enjoy Changes**

The color and layout both add to my pleasure reading it. As a long term member, I look forward to each issue and read it as soon as I can. Now I am waiting anxiously for the third quarter issue.

Mark W. Swetland

#### Very Nice Product

Although you are also a *professional* in the business, it is nice to see how well you have developed the journal into a work that the members are sure to appreciate.

Bob Odenweller

Editor's Note: My heartfelt thanks for the kudos. It is gratifying to know that I apparently have "gotten it right." However, I also welcome constructive criticism. — A.W.S.



#### Correction

Authorship of *It's A Color World These Days* in the Second Quarter issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* was incorrectly attributed to Ronald E. Lesher due to miscommunication in the transition between editors. The author was Ron Mitchell, president of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. We regret the error.

— Albert W. Starkweather

#### Carter Seeking APS Presidency

Dr. Nicholas G. Carter of Bethesda, Maryland, the American Philatelic Society's treasurer and member of the Board of Directors since 2003, has thrown his hat into the ring as a candidate for APS president. The election will take place in early 2007 with the term running for two years.

— Thomas M. Fortunato

#### The Necessity of Proofreading

The necessity of proofreading and fact checking is clearly demonstrated in the July issue of the *American Philatelist*, which identifies the late President Ronald Wilson Reagan as Ronald R. Reagan. Rather than being a typo, the error appears in captions for the two Reagan stamps and in a table of presidential memorial stamp issues.

— Albert W. Starkweather

#### Iprmoatnt Rsceearh

According to a rscheearer at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig, huh?

— Submitted by Tom Manning Former editor of From the Dragon's Den

#### **Eschew Obfuscation**

In promulgating your esoteric cogitations or articulating your superficial sentimentalities, and amicable philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communications possess a compacted conciseness, a clarified comprehensibility, a coalescent cogency, and a concatenated consistency. Eschew obfuscation and all conglomeration of flatulent garrulity, jejune babblement, and asinine affectations. Let your extemporaneous descantings and unpremeditated expatiations have intelligibility and voracious vivacity without rodomontade or thrasonical bombast. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolificacy, and vain vapid verbosity.

In short: "Be brief and don't use big words."

- Alan Warren

## Writers Unit Breakfast

The Writers Unit breakfast at STAMPSHOW 2006 will feature a presentation on the National Postal Museum's Arago Project (WWW.ARAGO.SI.EDU). The NPM Web site states, "Arago is your resource for your study of philately and postal operations as seen through the National Postal Museum's collection. Named after François Arago (19th century French scientist and friend of James Smithson) our Web site upholds his philosophy that knowledge can be shared through the technology of the day."

Speaker will Alex Haimann, one of the individuals who is developing the project. You may wish to visit the Project's Web site before *STAMPSHOW*. The breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. in the Rosemont, Illinois, Hyatt Hotel United A-B rooms on August 27. Breakfast Committee Chairman is Ronald E. Lesher. The Writer's Unit Council meeting will follow at about 10 a.m.

#### NPM A Boon for Researchers

By Alan Warren

Whether you are researching information for your own interests, for an exhibit, or to obtain facts for an article or monograph, do not overlook the tremendous font of information that is available in our nation's icon of philately, the National Postal Museum. Under the leadership of Director Allen Kane and Chief Curator Wilson Hulme, the museum has been brought into the public eye. Collectors and philatelic writers need to be aware of the wealth of information to be found at NPM.

In recent years, using specialists, consultants, the Council of Philatelists volunteer group, and an ever-increasing staff, the museum's holdings are being evaluated, organized, and made available to the public using 21st century technology. Much research can be done online but it sometimes is necessary to actually visit the NPM, which is across the street from Union Station in Washington, DC.

The NPM library is one of the 19 branches of the Smithsonian library system. It houses more than 5,000 books, 6,000 serial titles, and extensive files of manuscripts, photographs, stamps and auction catalogs. Some specialized collections include files of the USPOD, the Highway Post Office, the Aerial Mail Service, the Railway Mail Service, and the Panama Canal Zone Post Office.

To examine the library's extensive materials in person, it is necessary to make an appointment and to indicate the subjects and the kinds of information sought. To make an appointment or seek information, contact NPM Librarian is Paul McCutcheon at 202-633-5544, or by e-mail at MCCUTCHEONP@SI.EDU.

In an effort to make the collections even more accessible the NPM has introduced its latest whiz-bang project, Arago, which made its debut during the recent *WASHINGTON 2006* exhibition. Specialist volunteers have been called on to contribute their expertise in preparing or expanding many areas of this knowledge database. Actual items in the NPM collection can be examined close up in full color. If you would like to help in this major undertaking, you can volunteer by contacting the museum.

Some important Web sites you might wish to bookmark include: www.postalmuseum.si.edu, www.sil.si.edu/libraries/npm, and www.arago.si.edu.

# 2006 Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame Inductees





Joseph E. Foley and Robert P. Odenweller

#### Joseph Emmett Foley

**Joseph Emmett Foley** of Riva, Maryland, born Feb. 3, 1936, in Springfield, Massachusetts, died of cancer on May 3, 2006, at 69.

He was an ardent supporter of the goals of Writers Unit #30 and worked tirelessly to improve writers and editors skills through detailed articles in *The Philatelic Communicators*, the group's journal that he edited from 1996 until the end of 2005, when his health failed. He reenergized the publication with his theme-oriented issues that highlighted a large variety of writers, editors, and publishers who provided their expert insights. This popular approach brought him accolades from all parts of the organization.

He also served on the Writers Unit #30 Executive Committee and Council and was chairman of the Bylaws Committee. He never shied away from a tough assignment and his sage counsel could always be counted upon.

Joe Foley also served as editor or associate editor of the *Baltimore Philatelist*, the *Revealer*, the *Journal of Irish Philately*, and *Irish Postal History*. He served on the editorial board of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* and edited that award-winning journal from 2000 to 2004.

He wrote frequent articles and had regular columns that appeared in the *American Philatelist*, *Stamps*, and *Stamp Collector*. He received the Les Schriber, Sr. trophy for the best article in volume 85 of the *American Philatelist*. His award-winning "This n' That" column appeared monthly in *Stamp Collector*. He wrote for the Junior Philatelists of America's *Philatelic Observer* and worked with the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Revision committee. He was also a contributor to the *Scott Catalogue*.

He served as president of the American Philatelic Society from 1989 to 1991 and also was president of the Baltimore Philatelic Society, the Éire Philatelic Association, and the Collectors Club of Denver. He was a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society (London) and a signatory of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists kept in Dublin. He was an accomplished exhibitor and an accredited international judge.

He received a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Rhode Island in 1958 and a mechanical engineering degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1961. He worked for Western Electric for 20 years and later for Mountain Bell, NYNEX, and Bellcore. He also served in the Army Reserve as an Ordinance officer and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

#### Robert Paul Odenweller

**Robert Paul Odenweller** of Bernardsville, New Jersey, born Sept. 19, 1938, in Colon, Canal Zone, has been a distinguished researcher, author, and editor for many years.

His most recent work, *The Stamps and Postal History of Nine-teenth Century Samoa*, published jointly by the Royal Philatelic Society (London) and Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 2004, offers major new research and a wide range of new findings. The book earned the Grand Award at *Napex 2004*, Literature Grand Award at *StampShow 2004*, highest award at *Chicagopex 2004*, Best in Literature at the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) *Pacific Explorer 2005*, and gold at *Washington 2006*.

He also wrote *The FIP Guide to Exhibiting and Judging Traditional and Postal History Exhibits*, a two-volume set published by FIP, and he authored a 50-page *Judging Seminar* for FIP.

He has served on the Collectors Club of New York editorial board since 1975 and wrote many articles for the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, including a series about Samoa (1975–1979) that received the Collectors Club Philatelist Medal. He took over as editor of *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 2005 and quickly converted the journal from black and white to full color with a change from a deficit to profitable operation.

He wrote two award-winning books and many shorter research articles for the Philatelic Foundation. He also has written an *American Congress Book* research article about New Zealand bisects that received the 1971 Jere Hess Barr Award; a research article about the U.S. 1869 issues and 1875 reissues making identification easier (published in the 1869 Times and Collectors Club Philatelist); a series on international judging and judging training in *Collectors Club Philatelist*; and four new research articles on New Zealand Chalons that appeared in the *London Philatelist* and *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 2004–2005.

He served as editor of *Opinions VI*, and provided research articles in various other issues of *Opinions*. He also edited *Philatelic Vocabulary in Five Languages*. Since 1986, he has been a regular columnist in *The Philatelic Exhibitor* with his "Ask Odenweller" column. He is currently finishing work on a major book about the first issues of New Zealand.

He has received the Royal Philatelic Society 2005 Crawford Medal for best publication of the year (Samoa) and the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand 2005 Collins Award for excellence in publishing. Among his other awards are the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (1991); Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award (1993); FIP Medal for Service (1996) and APS Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately (1996).

Included among his many leadership roles are president of the Collectors Club of New York, APS director, and president of FIP Commission for Traditional Philately. He is an FIP Grand Prix d'Honneur winning exhibitor and an accredited international judge.

A 1960 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he served in the Air Force until 1966 as a B-52 pilot and then joined TWA where he captained airplanes until his retirement in 2000.

# Two New Postal Card Catalogues Released

The United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS) has released two new books - its 2005 edition of the United States Postal Card Catalog and the Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Co*lumbian Exposition*. Reviews of the two books will appear in the fourth quarter issue of The Philatelic Communicator.

#### U.S. Postal Card Catalog

Since 1960, the standard bearer of information on U.S. postal cards has been the United States Postal Card Catalog, published at five-year intervals The 2005 edition, debuted at Washington 2006, contains expanded and updated printing terminology and domestic and international postage rate tables among its nearly 500 pages.

Edited by Lewis E. Bussey, the 10th edition includes a revised Columbian Exposition portion, in coordination with UPSS's recently published handbook (see below), a revised local post cards section, and all new USPS postal card emissions since the 2000 edition.

The catalog is available in hardcover for \$55 (\$45 for members) or loose-leaf for \$45 (\$36 members) from UPSS Central Office, P. O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831 (e-mail upss@comcast.net). A 11/2-inch binder for the loose-leaf version is \$4. Add \$5 shipping for up to two books or binders to U.S. addresses. For non-U.S. destinations, shipping is \$8 by surface or \$15 by air per item.

Fifteen additional references on United States and foreign postal stationery, two sizes of corner mounts and other collector aids are available from UPSS. Society information, lots in the current society auction, and the complete publications and supplies listing may be viewed on the UPSS Web site www.upss.org.

## Daniel A. Piazza Named Communicator Associate Editor

Daniel A. Piazza of Syracuse, New York, has been named associate editor of The Philatelic Communicator by Editor Albert W. Starkweather. His duties will include sharing editing and proofreading chores, along with writing on tight deadlines. He will also be reviewing electronic media, including CDs, DVDs, an Web sites.

His help was invaluable in the transition of editors and production techniques for the second quarter issue of the journal. Piazza's assistance has helped to greatly reduce the inevitable errors introduced in the typesetting process.

"Naming Dan Piazza as associate editor ensures continuance of the journal when the times comes for me to retire," Starkweather said.

A Ph.D, candidate in history at Syracuse University, Piazza is also contributing editor and columnist for the Stamp Insider, journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, Inc.; VPS governor at-large and associate editor of Vatican Notes, journal of the Vatican Philatelic Society (VPS); and Webmaster for the VPS (www.vaticanphilately.org) and Syracuse Stamp Clubs (WWW.SYRACUSESTAMPCLUB.ORG), as well as a vice president of

#### **Columbian Exposition Handbook**

A study of the postal cards of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, the first true world's fair in the United States, has been released by the United Postal Stationery Society. Kenneth C. Wukasch's Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition describes 13 series of postal cards prepared prior to and during the exposition by different publishers.

Approximately 27.5 million people, including 14 million foreigner visitors, attended the 633-acre showcase along Chicago's Lake Michigan.

These cards were the United States' first true souvenir postal cards. Although some of the exposition card publishers are not known, the most famous groups were those distributed by Charles W. Goldsmith, accounting for six sets released over the six-month run of the Chicago fair.

Other known publishers included Joseph Koehler and the firm of Keppler and Schwarzman (producer of the Puck cards). Both were New York City-based.

The 190-page Columbian handbook also details the history of the souvenir card, the development of the new "C" size used for this series of postal cards and the operations of the station post office at the exposition. Values are given for unused cards and for domestic or foreign usages having regular or Exposition station cancels.

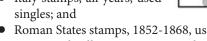
The Columbian Exposition publication is available in hardcover from the UPSS Central Office, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831 (e-mail UPSS@comcast.net) for \$50 (\$40 if UPSS member) plus \$5 shipping.

Syracuse Stamp Club. He is to become editor of Vatican Notes in July 2007.

He is also a member of the American Philatelic Society, APS Writers Unit 30, and VPS New York Chapter..

Piazza's traditional collecting interests include:

- U.S. stamps, BEP period (1894-1979), margin singles and blocks;
- Vatican City stamps, all years, margin singles and blocks;
- Italy stamps, all years, used





- Roman States stamps, 1852-1868, used singles His topical collecting interests include:
- Illuminated manuscripts on stamps, and
- Dante Alighieri on stamps

Dan Piazza may be contacted at 753 James St., Apt. 1126, Syracuse, NY 13203-2413; telephone 315-476-8052; e-mail DPIAZZA@TWCNY.RR.COM.

# Looking at Books, Journals, and CDs

#### **Books & Catalogues**

#### World War I Censorship in Bermuda

Bermuda Civil Censorship World War I by A. Stewart Jessop. 40 pages, soft cover, saddle stitched. ©2006 British West Indies Study Circle, ISBN 0-953-8804-8-6. All color illustrations. Available from Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 8AZ, UK. Price £15.

This attractive work provides substantial detail about the operations and markings of civilian censorship on the island during the Great War. Since Bermuda followed the 1912 Imperial War Book plan for censorship, this book may have wider applicability than the isolated locale that is covered. The procedures adopted by Bermuda may provide insights into how censorship worked for a much wider swath of the British Empire.



Censorship in Bermuda was primarily of concern for outgoing correspondence, to prevent information of a militarily or economically useful nature making its way to neutral countries and then to enemies. Thus, incoming correspondence, particularly to known inhabitants on the island and to businesses received perfunctory attention from the censors.

The various handstamp markings and manuscript annotations are listed, described and illustrated. All of the postal cover illustrations are in color. Jessop identifies the censors and provides biographical sketches for many of them.

This is a work of great utility.

- Gene Fricks

#### **Exploring Vermont's DPOs**

Vermont DPO Guide 2006 edited by Bill Lizotte.  $8^{1/2} \times 11$ inches, 28 pages, soft cover, saddle stitched. ©2006 Vermont Philatelic Society. All color illustrations. Available from Glenn A. Estus, P. O. Box 451, Westport NY 12993. Price \$17 postpaid.

This year the Vermont Philatelic Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As part of the special occasion it recently has published the Vermont DPO Guide 2006. The compilation of information for this publication is the result of more than 30 years of research by member Mike McMorrow and others.

The 28-page guide, is a comprehensive listing of all the discontinued post offices within the state, accompanied by a rarity valuation. It is printed on heavy bright folded paper with a stronger ivory card stock cover. The entire publication is done in color, and the color illustrations of postmarks and covers are all clear and readable. The booklet is an update of previous DPO rating guides published by the VPS in 1982 and 1996.

The first six pages illustrate numerous examples of scarce covers from some of the shortest lived / rarest known postal hamlets,

including the only known example from the Huntville Post Office. Elaborate descriptions of postal markings, stamps, and rarity of usage accompany these illustrations.

It is fascinating to note that some of the rarest cancels originate after the year 1960 in short-lived rural offices.

The following section begins with an explanation of the scarcity rating system. The scale is from 1 to 10, with 1 being common (valued at \$3-\$5) and 9 being extremely rare (valued at up to \$2,000). A rating of 10 means that

there are no known examples from that post office.

Also included in this edition are separate price and rarity listings for each period of service for a post office. It was not uncommon for offices to open and close repeatedly, with a slightly different name, or even the same name in the early days of service.

Occasionally two separate offices existed at various time periods with the same name. The listings of urban branches, rural stations, and closures of more modern offices that have

been recently discontinued are also included.

Pages 13-28 list each of the DPOs with their ratings, years of service, and, in some cases, a township name in parentheses

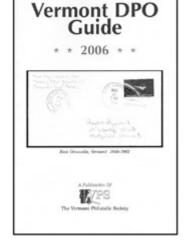
after the post office name to aid with its location. Interspersed throughout this section are small color examples of the postmarks.

If you are a fan of postal hisconcise and easily slipped into a

tory or someone who collects postal markings from Vermont this publication would be highly beneficial to you. It is clear and

briefcase to take to a stamp or postcard show for handy reference.

— Heather Sweeting Continued on Page 8



#### The Vermont Philatelic Society

The society was founded in 1956 to study and promote Vermont philately. It publishes a quarterly journal, The Vermont Philatelist. To join VPS, contact Executive Director Bill Lizotte 98 Brooklyn Heights #5, Morrisville, VT 05661-5907. Annual dues are \$10. Payments for dues or books should be made payable to the Vermont Philatelic Society. More information may be found at www.vermontps.org.

#### **Reviews — Continued from Page 7**

#### A Challenging Revenue Field

Real Estate State Revenue Stamps Catalog by Peter Martin.  $8^{1/4} \times 10^{3/5}$  inches, soft bound, stiff covers, saddle stitched. ©2006 State Revenue Society, P. O. Box 4503, Danbury, CT. Available from SRS Sales, P. O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514 or Nutmeg Stamps Sales, P. O. Box 4547, Danbury, CT 06813. Price \$19.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling.

This attempt to document state real estate transfer tax stamps provides much needed information about stamps that have been used since 1952. Anyone who has attempted to research recent issues knows just how great a challenge this is, a challenge that by and large is well fulfilled in this small work on the emissions of the nine states — Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia — whose stamps contain the words *real estate*, *real estate transfer*, *realty transfer*, or *property transfer*. Martin acknowledges that other states issued stamps for paying the tax on real estate transfers, but since none of these terms appear, their stamps have been excluded.

Maryland's recordation tax dates from 1937; Florida had a surtax on real estate transfers beginning in 1968; Minnesota, Massachusetts, Arkansas, and Oklahoma all issued stamps used exclusively on realty transfers — all are excluded from the present work because the words do not appear on the stamps. Several other instances exist where documentary tax stamps were issued and used on several types of transactions, but not exclusively on real estate transfers. Curiously, in the section on city, county, and municipal issues, Martin pictures examples (California county documentary tax stamps, Minnesota county deed tax stamps, and others) that violate the rubric used to select the state issues. Similarly, in the section on meters, the first example is a California county documentary tax.

In spite of being limited to nine states, this work is invaluable. The Maine stamps are illustrated for the first time; the Illinois and West Virginia stamps get their first comprehensive treatments.

The taxation rates are included for eight of the nine states, an essential for the serious student in explaining intact documents. The author is to be commended for digging out this important information about the fiscal history of these stamps. The illustrations of complete documents where known is especially helpful.

Indiana is the only state where rate information is lacking. The author says the State Law Library staff told him the research would be difficult, even if the specific citations were known. Yet the two illustrated warranty deeds yield the rate for at least Monroe County in July 1962. The federal rate of tax was 55 cents per \$1,000. Using this as a guide in conjunction with the state taxes, it would appear that the two properties in the illustrations were valued at \$1,000 and \$1,600. That properly accounts for both the federal red documentary stamps and the state taxes, if one assumes that the state tax rate was 1.5% of the value. Whether that was the case in each county cannot be tested with the deeds illustrated. At least one state (Maryland) fixed the rate by county. It is not known whether that is the case for Indiana, although such a situation would make researching the rates difficult (as suggested by the state law library staff).

Martin states that the federal transfer on real property expired in 1966. This is incorrect; it expired at the end of 1967. He also states

that the final federal tax rate was \$1 per \$1,000. A citation for this rate would be useful, as all the documents from the 1960s I have examined show the 55-cent per \$1,000 rate that this writer used above in deducing the Indiana state rates.

The catalog has been carefully edited and is quite free of typographic errors. On page five there is a missing dash in the explanation for items which are known, but left unpriced.



There is also an error in the discussion of the West Virginia tax rates. The text suggests that the county commission could raise the rate to \$110 per \$500. I suspect that this should be \$1.10 per \$500.

The catalog ventures into pricing each listed stamp. A dash indicates that the stamp has been reported but there is not enough information to establish a price. Every collector I know wants this information and every author is reluctant to try to price each item, knowing that even one small find can render the prices grossly outmoded. Martin has had the benefit of seeing first hand the auction realizations of items from the collections and holdings of State Revenue Society founder Elbert Hubbard. Martin is an employee of Nutmeg Stamp Sales, the current owner and auctioneer of the Hubbard holdings.

Martin suggests that mint copies of the low denomination North Carolina real estate stamps have been reported (dash in the mint price space), whereas Scott Troutman's *The Revenue Stamps of North Carolina* (2005) suggests no such report (blank in the mint price space). In areas of the less trodden state revenues such discrepancies of reporting are certainly to be expected. Nevertheless such reports leave us uncertain of what actually has been seen by collectors.

Perhaps more important is the pricing of the top two values of sets. The top denomination almost always appears in greater quantities than the second highest denomination. This is certainly true of the federal red documentary, stock transfer, silver transfer tax, and the distilled spirits excise tax stamps. The same is true in my experience with the Pennsylvania Real Estate Transfer Tax stamps, the \$500 denomination being far scarcer than the \$1,000. Martin tends to use an ever ascending price as the denomination goes up. This bias is evident in the Nevada stamps, where apparently the supply in the philatelic marketplace consists of 10 stamps of each denomination (purchased many years ago by a past president of the State Revenue Society, Terry Hines). If the census of each is the same, shouldn't each be priced at the same level?

These objections aside, this catalog with gorgeous color illustrations is essential for the library of every state revenue stamp collector. The information on these elusive stamps contained in this volume will be the basis where future researchers begin.

- Ronald E. Lesher

REVIEWER'S DISCLAIMER: I contributed information on which the Pennsylvania real estate tax stamps section is based. As such, some would argue that it is inappropriate that I review the work. Although I am not a serious student of real estate transfer tax stamps of the other eight states a number of them do grace my own collection.

#### **Lone Star Philately**

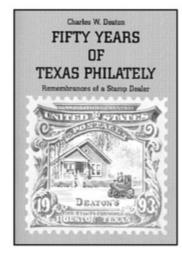
Fifty Years of Texas Philately: Remembrances of a Stamp Dealer by Charles W. Deaton.  $7 \times 10$  inches, 48 pages, soft bound, saddle stitched. ©2006 Charles W. Deaton. Available from Deaton, P.O. Box 340550, Austin, TX 78734, December through May, or P. O Box 2836, Orleans, MA 02653, May through November. Price \$8.95.

The well-known Texas stamp dealer, collector, and author, has written a short personal reminiscence of his half century of ties with philately in the Lone Star State. While Deaton is unlikely to unseat the late Herman Herst as a master story teller, the monograph provides a unique insight into his perception of philately in the Lone Star State for half a century.

Unlike Deaton't two previous books — the *Texas Postal History Handbook*, 1980 and 1991, reprint of 1980 book, and the *Philatelic Guide to the 1938 Texas Centennial Celebration*, 1984, this volume provides an informal and fun approach to the hobby.

Included are black and white photo galleries of "Distinquished Philatelic Texans: Dealers and Collectors" and some interesting covers. The monograph concludes with words worth heeding:

... remember this is a hobby. It's supposed to be fun. I have had a lot of fun with this hobby, and you should too. However you collect, whether it's just filling up the spaces in an album in a haphazard manner, or looking for old covers from the towns in your area, or building an important collection of top quality rare classic U.S. stamps, if you are not having fun, you are doing



something wrong. Step back for a moment to figure out how and when the fun went away, make an adjustment or two to bring it back, and then get going again.

The book is being given free to new members of the Texas Philatelic Association (www.texasphilatelic.org).

- Albert W. Starkweather

#### **Electronic Media**

#### **Accessing Michel Online**

Michel Online Catalog (www.michel.de). Created and maintained by Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, Unterschleissheim, Germany. Annual subscription fees €58.80 (standard) or €94.68 (premium). Accessed 11 July 2006.

Schwaneberger Verlag, the premier German-language philatelic publisher, has launched an online version of its Michel line of stamp catalogs. At present, the electronic edition comprises all four volumes of the Europe catalog and all 10 volumes of the Overseas catalog. The Germany specialized catalog (two volumes) is only from 1945 to the present; the publisher promises to begin adding pre-1945 listings "this winter". In all, subscribers have access to 580,000 listings, 1.5 million catalogue values, and 275,000 illustrations.

The most innovative feature of the online catalog is that listings can be searched by topic as well as by country, year of issue, and catalog number. All non-numeric search terms must be entered in German, however, so if you collect chess on stamps, for example, you will need to search for "schach" (returns 358 results). If you don't have an English–German dictionary, online translators such as Babelfish (HTTP: //BABELFISH.ALTAVISTA.COM) work well for one- or two-word phrases. Topical collectors will find this level of searchability most welcome.

The poor quality of the stamp images available to standard users is frustrating. Fewer than half of the listings are illustrated, and those that are often show only a single stamp in the set. The clarity is abysmal: most images are fewer than 100 square pixels and some appear to be black-and-white scans from the paper catalogs. A few are barely recognizable as stamps.

Annual fees are approximately \$75 for a standard subscription, which includes access to all of the content described above, or approximately \$121 for premium, which includes higher resolu-



tion images, the ability to query the catalog by ranges of dates and catalog numbers, and a *sticky note* tool that lets the user annotate catalog listings for their own use.

A significant drawback is that month-to-month subscriptions are not available; users must pay for an entire year up front. Moreover, a close reading of the Web site's terms and conditions reveals that two months' notice is required to cancel a subscription. Still, the price is less than one-tenth that of a complete set of the paper catalogs, which can easily run to well over \$1,000.

A demo version allowing visitors view 25 randomly selected online entries, is available by going to www.michel.de and then clicking *Online-Katalog > Demo > Anmelden*.

— Daniel A. Piazza Continued on Page 10

#### **Reviews** — Continued from Page 9

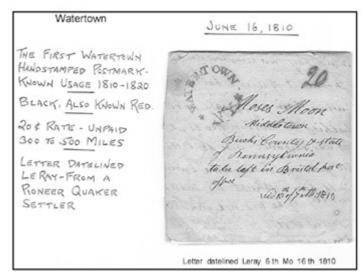
#### New York State Postal History on CD

New York State Postal History by Gerald F. Wiley. Two CD-ROMs totaling 1.26 GB of data in full color. \$2.50 postpaid in the U.S. from Gerald F. Wiley, 921 Mill Street, Watertown NY 13601 or GWILEY@NORTHERNFCU.NET.

Gerry Wiley, a longtime member and director of the Empire State Postal History Society (www.esphs.org), has undertaken to digitize 3,200 items from his massive collection and make them available on CD-ROM. All too often, collections such as his are assembled only to be scattered to the four winds when they are sold, Wiley's hard work will ensure that his collection can be studied for years to come. That this project was a labor of love is evidenced by the asking price of only \$2.50 — barely enough to cover materials, postage, and packing.

Both stamped and stampless covers and postcards from 43 of New York's 62 counties are sorted alphabetically into folders. Subfolders further divide each county by post office. Disc One includes a folder with more than 100 New York State RPO usages and information on "Basic Postal Rates Found on Stampless Covers, 1792–1855". The emphasis is on North Country counties — especially Jefferson and St. Lawrence, which together comprise an entire CD.

The images are crisp and clear; they were scanned at 200-300



dots per inch and saved as JPEGs. Where covers had been mounted for exhibiting, the entire page has been scanned write-up and all. Happily, Wiley also included the picture side of post cards and the contents of some of the covers, which some postal historians might not have done. Some of the picture post cards depict post offices and even mail boats, a bonus bit of philatelic eye candy!

These CD-ROMs are way more interesting than a lousy movie, and a lot cheaper, too!

— Daniel A. Piazza

#### Viewpoint: Web Sites as 'Literature'

Francis E. Kiddle, chairman of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Literature Commission, offers an interesting commentary on the role of Web sites in literature competitions in Issue No. 95 (2005) of the FIP journal *Flash*. He first points out the growing popularity and importance of philatelic literature in various electronic formats.

Certainly the CD and DVD are being used more and more for books and journals, and their capacity makes them suitable for complete journal runs such as the ones recently released for the *London Philatelist*.

There is no problem seen with CD versions of literature submitted to competitions including FIP venues. In fact these new formats are encouraged. However, Web sites present other problems. Many organizations are using their Web pages for providing new information, reproducing articles from their journals,

displaying exhibits, indexes, library holdings, and quite a variety of other materials. When Web sites were in their infancy, the FIP inaugurated an annual Web site competition. Charlie Peterson ran the first one and Kiddle ran the next three competitions.

As the popularity of Web site technology grew rapidly, increasing not only the size of Web sites but also the number of them, it was soon recognized that undertaking an annual evaluation was a complex logistical problem. In many cases the content and quality of a site could change dramatically overnight. The amount of time needed to evaluate the sites became enormous and so it was decided to discontinue the competition.

Kiddle will bring this matter before the Bureau at Malaga, and prior to the 2006 FIP Congress meeting. However, the circumstances indicate that a formal abandonment of Web site evaluations as done in the past will be confirmed by FIP.

— Alan Warren

#### **Reviews Section Expanded**

We have added to two new categories to our reviews section — Electronic Media, which includes CDs-ROMs, DVDs, and Web presentations; and Journals / Newsletters. The reviews have been divided into the three categories, including Books & Catalogues to reflect that change.

The additions were made in order to more accurately reflect the current state of philatelic writing and journalism. That the *WASH-INGTON 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition accepted electronic media represents a paradigm shift in judging standards. The nine entries submitted at *WASHINGTON 2006* received one large vermeil, three large silver, four silver bronze, and one bronze award. Unlike the FIP, we will continue to review Web sites, based on merit.

Associate Editor Daniel A. Piazza will take charge of the Electronic Media section, while Alfred Carroccia will oversee the Journals / Newsletters section. However, anyone is welcome to submit reviews for those sections.

Suggestions for reviews and reviews for the two new areas should be submitted to both the editor and the section editors.

Dan Piazza may be contacted at 753 James St., Apt. 1126, Syracuse, NY 13203-2413; telephone 315-476-8052; e-mail DPIAZZA@TWCNY.RR.COM.

Alfred Carroccia may be contacted at 152 Windmill Road, West Seneca, NY 14218-3776; telephone 716-674-0302; e-mail FUZZY9600@VERIZON.NET.

#### **Journals & Newsletters**

#### The Texas Philatelist

The Texas Philatelist, published by monthly by The Texas Philatelic Association. 6 × 9 inches, 40 pages, soft bound, saddle stitched. Available from the Texas Philatelic Association, c/o Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005; www.texasphilatelic.org.

The Texas Philatelist recently switched printers, changed its format and added color throughout. Before the switch the journal was a  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ -inch 28 page publication printed by xerography in black and white.

Its pages covered club activities throughout the state and carried an occasional one- or two-page feature article with one black and white illustration. Lacking was balance, as features were mixed with news and activities.

Recent issues in the new format illustrate the positive transformation. Ironically, the journal is using the same printer used by *The Stamp Insider*, the journal published by the Federation of Central New York Stamp Societies, Inc. The work is being done by Adventure Graphics of Dallas, owned by Norman Cohen, a major philatelist in his own right. *The Texas Philatelist* converted to the new color format with the March/April issue. The publication is in its 54th year.

The  $6 \times 9$ -inch size of *The Texas Philatelist*, which is printed on glossy paper, is perfect for its ease in handling. A recent cover

illustrating the Sierra Leone Face on Mars souvenir sheet is vibrant as the colors jump out. Color accents the two major articles in that issue. One surveying the pictorial cancels of Texas contains many examples of pictorial and slogan cancels including those in color. The text is clearly written and is an ideal introduction to the area. The article on the Sierra Leone issue tells the sad story of those who invested money in the issue with the hopes of reaping a handsome return.



Rounding out this issue was news and events taking place in Texas along with a photo review of *Texpex 2006* in color, of course.

Information about the journal and the Texas Philatelic Association can be found at www.texasphilatelic.org or from the editor, Douglas Moss, 305 Saint Lukes Drive, Richardson, TX 75080-4830. Moss succeeded Jane King Fohn after she stepped down from the position last year.

— Alfred Carroccia

#### **Briefly Noted**

The Philatelic Exhibitors is the quarterly publication of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors which is the organization that addresses the area of exhibiting. The  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ -inch magazine format of the journal containes sparse black and white illustrations mainly of exhibit pages. The articles are technical but clearly written, particularly one article on writing the text for exhibits. Also included is news and features geared towards exhibiting standards and rules. A wealth of information on exhibiting is crammed into 25 pages. Information from Editor John Hotchner, P. O. Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125.

Vatican Notes is the bimonthly organ of the Vatican Philatelic Society which is devoted to the study of Vatican City and Roman States philately. The 24-page 8½ × 11-inch format has color on the cover and gold color on its masthead with the balance of the illustrations in clear black and white scans. Well-written articles on Roman States stamps and Vatican postal rates were broken in the middle of the journal for the Vatican Philatelic Society Auction. News and club business were interspersed throughout. Information at www.vaticanphilately.org or from Editor K. Thomas Adkins, 1Plum Court, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766-1828.

**PHILIPPINES PHILATELIC JOURNAL** is published quarterly by the International Philippine Philatelic Society. It is dedicated to the study and advancement of Philippine philately. The two-color cover of the second quarter issue of 2006 contained the IPPS show issue for *Washington 2006* with an 18-page reproduction, in black and white (grayscale) of the IPPS exhibit to be displayed at the show. It is a comprehensive overview of Philippine stamps and covers which, unfortunately, is lost in

the black and white illustrations. Information from Editor, P.O. Box 100, Troast, NC 27049.

**DUCK TRACKS** is the official journal of the National Duck Stamp Collector's Society. The quarterly journal, in newsletter format, addresses the area of duck stamps on and off license and devotes attention to the artwork considered the most beautiful of all stamps. Besides news from both philatelic and non-philatelic sources the journal surveys all the duck stamps issued not only by both the federal government and the states (not all states issues stamps) but also foreign countries. Information from Editor, Rita Dumaine P. O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438-0043.

THE DISPATCHER touts itself as the publication of railroad philately and is the newsletter for the Casey Jones Railroad Unit of the American Topical Association. The 8½ × 11-inch bimonthly newsletter has a full-color cover with mostly black and white illustrations. Each issue contains articles of various lengths including thematic topics and one major article on an obscure railroad post office operations. As with any topical publication there was the survey of new issues which also updated and corrected the vast listing of railroad issues. Information from www.uqp.de/cjr or from Editor Norman E. Wright, Sr., P.O. Box 18615, Rochester, NY 14618-8615.

Alfred Carroccia

Material for reviews may be sent to the editor. Reviews are also welcomed from others. Reviews from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication with the review. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors, and publishers.

# 2005 Newsletter Competition Awards

Winners of the American Philatelic Society's Chapter Activities Committee 2005 Newsletter Competition have been announced by Jane King Fohn, competition manager. Judges were J. Kevin Doyle, Reuben A. Ramkissoon, and Kenneth Trettin.

The publications and their awards will be displayed at *STAMP-SHOW 2006* in Rosemont, IL. The 28 winning publications and their editors are:

#### Class I: Novice

#### Silver

Blue & Gray Stamp Club Newsletter, Calvin R. Osman, Glenville, PA

Denver Stamp Club Newsletter, Peter Adgie, Littleton, CO Westside Stamp Club Newsletter, Peter Adgie, Littleton, CO

# Class IIA: Single-Page: Membership 5–99

*Driftwood*, Long Beach Stamp Club, Lloyd Baumann, Huntington Beach, CA

#### Vermeil

Charlotte Philatelic Society Newsletter, Harold Reiter, Charlotte, NC Jackson Philatelic Society Newsletter, Stanley W. Stewart, Wesson, MS

#### Silver

Sarasota Philatelic Club Bulletin, Jack Seaman, Sarasota, FL

# Class IIIA: Multi-Page: Membership 5-99 Gold

Chicago Philatelic Society Bulletin, Randall Sherman, Chicago, IL Knoxville Philatelic Society News, Tom Broadhead, Knoxville, TN San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter, James Sauer, editor, San Jose, CA SISC Newsletter, Southern Illinois Stamp Club, Vera Felts, Carterville, IL

The Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter, Neal E. Danielson, Wichita, KS

#### Vermeil

Charlottesville Stamp Club Newsletter, William W. Sihler, Keswick, VA

The Perf Gauge, Joplin Stamp Club, Ron Demery, Joplin, MO Oklahoma City Stamp Club Bulletin, Joe Crosby, Oklahoma City, OK

*Graebner Gazette*, Robert C. Graebner Chapter AFDCS, Rollin F. Berger, Jr., Annapolis Junction, MD

#### South Miami Stamp Club Newsletter, Enrique Setaro, Miami, FL Strait Stamp Talk, Strait Stamp Society, Chester M. Masters, Sequim, WA

Westmoreland County Philatelic Society Newsletter, James Vaughn, Norvelt, PA

# Class IIIB: Multi-Page: Membership 100+

*The Shoe Box*, Lakeshore Stamp Club, Inc., Raymond W. Ireson, Roxboro, Quebec, Canada

Stamping Around, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, Peter Elias, Plano, TX **Vermeil** 

Baltimore Philatelist, Baltimore Philatelic Society, Robert E. Gibson, Sr., Glen Burnie, MD

Calgary Philatelist, Calgary Philatelic Society, Dale Speirs. Calgary, Alberta, Canada

*MSC Monthly Bulletin*, Merchantville Stamp Club, Stephanos Hadjiyannis, Cherry Hill, NJ

#### Silver

Chatter and Postscript, Corn Belt Philatelic Society, Jack Robb and Janice Jenkins, Bloomington, IL

Hollywood Philatelist, Hollywood Stamp Club, Enrique Setaro, Miami, FL

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Newsletter, Tom Reiff, Pittsburgh, PA

# Class IV: Federation Gold

Stamp Insider, Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, Albert W. Starkweather, Tampa, FL

#### **Deadline for Next Competition**

This competition is open to all current APS Chapters, whether an individual club or federation. There is no entry fee. To participate, newsletter editors or an officer of the sponsoring chapter must submit three copies of three newsletters issued in the current year and submit a competition entry form by January 15 of the following year. All newsletters will be donated to the society at the conclusion of the competition.

Application forms may be obtained from Jane King Fohn, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409 or downloaded from the APS: www.stamps.org/cac/cac\_nlc.htm.

Judges for the 2006 competition will be William Bauer, chairman; Peter D. Martin; and Tom Mazza.

#### Expert Help for Writers, Editors

Two notable members of Writers Unit #30 offer expert help for writers and editors.

Barth Healey, a senior staff editor at the *New York Times*, will review society journals and other publications, providing constructive comments.

Send two or three recent issues to him at 220 Montauk Hwy., Apt. 16, P. O. Box 277, Speonk NY 11972-0277. Please supply return postage.

Past president Charles J. Peterson offers free critiques for periodicals and books / manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days.

Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary, depending on length and other commitments. Include a SASE.

Send your materials to Peterson at P. O. Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20226. His phone is 301-776-9822; e-mail cJP7777@AOL.COM. ◆◆



#### **Reading Room**

Reuben A. Ramkissoon of Oak Brook, Illinois, chairman of the Reading Room Committee at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, left, confers with W2006 President Michael D. Dixon at the room's entrance during the show. Dr. Ramkissoon was awarded silver and silver bronze medals for his two entries in the literature competition. Nikhil Rajan, 10, of Victor, NY, below, shelves books in the reading room.

(Daniel A. Piazza photos)

# Scenes from Washington 2006



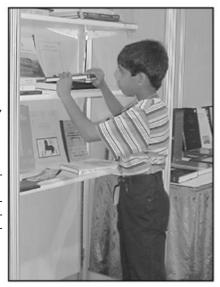
#### **Certificate Presentation**

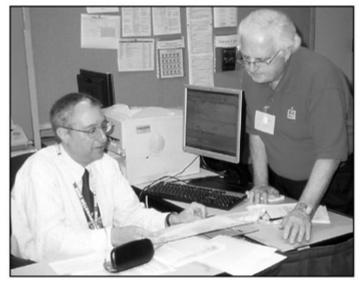
Writers Unit #30 President Peter Martin presents Robert Dalton Harris his 2005 WU #30 Hall of Fame certificate in front of Harris' booth at the *Washington 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition.

#### In the Press Room

Thomas M. Fortunato, below left, chair of the Media Communications Committee at *Washington 2006*, checks out a press clipping with Don Schilling, a public relations trainer, coach, and consultant from southern California. Schilling also conducts a philatelic blog.

(Daniel A. Piazza photo)





# Washington 2006 Literature Competition Palmares

By Daniel A. Piazza

The largest FIP literature competition in memory was held at the *Washington 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition. Jury Secretary Stephen D. Schumann said a total of 228 entries from more than 40 countries were judged and the jury awarded 226 medals. More than one-quarter of all medals awarded at the show were in the literature class, reflecting the high caliber of the entries. Competition judges were Tay Peng Hain of Singapore, Francis E. Kiddle of the United Kingdom, and Charles J. Peterson of the United States. (See Kiddle's reflection on the competition, Page 17.)

The show's highest literature medal, a single large gold, went to the third edition of Manuel Tizón's *Prefilatelia Española*, a four-volume study of the stampless period in Spanish empire postal history. The work previously was awarded the grand prix at *C*<sub>7</sub>*NPLE* in October 2005 in Toronto and gold at APS StampShow in August 2005 in Grand Rapids, MI.

The examination copies have been donated to the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, PA; the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver, CO; and the Western Philatelic Library in Sunnyvale, CA.

#### Categories

Literature categories were FIP Class 10A: Pamphlets, Books, and Studies; Class 10B: Journals and Periodicals; 10C: Catalogues; 10D: Electronic Media.

#### Large Gold (1 awarded)

Prefilatelia Española (Vols. 1-4) by Manuel Tizón [10A]

#### Gold (12 awarded)

Catalogo Especializado de los Enteros Postales de Espana y Colonias by Angel Laiz [10C]

Historia Postal de Antioquia by Juan Santa Maria [10A] Manual de las Emisiones de Sellos de España (Vol. I/IV) by Alvaro

M. Pinna [10A]

Modena, 1852–2002: 150th Anniversary of Este Postage Stamps Commemorative Exhibition, Vaccari SRL [10A]

Nederlandse Scheepspost Vol. II: Nederland en het Westen 1600–1900 by Claude Delbeke [10A]

Nile Post Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps by Joseph Chalhoub [10C]

Os Correios Portugueses Entre 1853–1900: Carimbos Nominativos e Dados Postais e Etimologicos by Pedro Vaz Pereira [10A]

Philatelic Expertising by Wolfgang Hellrigl [10A]

Philatelic Literature: History and Bibliography (Vol. 4) by Manfred Amrhein [10A]

Rumänien–Handbuch Band 2: Fürstentum Walachei, 1820–1862 und Vereinigte Fürstentümer, 1862–1872 by Fritz Heimbüchler [10A]

Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa by Robert P. Odenweller [10A]

*Understanding Transatlantic Mail (Vol. 1)* by Richard F. Winter [10A]

#### Large Vermeil (38 awarded)

Allied Censorship of Communications in Austria, 1945–1953 by Karl Majörg [10A]

American Air Mail Catalogue (6th Ed., Vol. 3), American Air Mail Society [10C]

Bone and Stone by Francis Adams [10D]

Catalogo Especializado de Sellos de España (Vols. 1–3), Edifil [10C] Catálogo Especializado Enciclopédico de Sellos de España, Filabo S.A. [10C]

Collectors Club Philatelist, Collectors Club [10B]

Collector's Guide to Confederate Philately by John L. Kimbrough and Conrad L. Bush [10A]

Definitive Postage Stamps of Canada, 1953–2005: An Analytical Approach (Vols. 1–5) by Joseph Monteiro [10A]

Ecuador: The Philately of the Seebeck Era by Robert A. D'Elia and Douglas B. Armitage [10A]

Encyclopedia of U.S. Stamps and Stamp Collecting edited by Rodney A. Juell and Stephen J. Rod [10A]

Facit Postal VII, Facit Förlags AB [10C]

Facit Special 2006, Facit Förlags AB [10C]

First New Taiwan Dollars Surcharged Issue by Yu-Feng Shaw [10A]

\*Forty Lepta Large Hermes Head Stamps of Greece by Louis Basel [10A]

Handbook of Hellenic Philately by Anthony Virvilis [10A] Handbook of Provisional Issues of Croatia/Bosnia–Herzegovina, 1945 by Mladen Vilfan [10A]

History and Postal History of Japan's Wars (Vol. 1) by Kenneth Clark [10A]

Indian Government Fiscal and Judicial Stamps and Stamp Papers by Stanley Blatt [10C]

\*Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period, 1948 by Z. Shimony, Y. Rimon, and I. Karpovsky [10A]

Kangaroos and the Early Federal Period, 1901–12, Brusden–White Publishing [10C]

Norgeskatalogen 2006, Oslo Filatelistklubb [10C]

Norway: The Skilling Oscar Stamps by Tore Gjelsvik [10A]

Opinions VII, The Philatelic Foundation [10A]

Polish Postal Rates, 1918-1939 by Marek Zbierski [10A]

Post in the Este Territories and in the Duchy of Modena: History and Postal History, 1453–1852, Vaccari SRL [10A]

Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope, 1792–1910 by Franco Frescura [10A]

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Postal History, Postal History Society of Great Britain [10B]

Postal History of the Leeward Islands by Edward Proud [10A]

Postal History of the Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in East Asia During the Second World War (Vol. 3: Burma, Thailand, and Indochina, 1942–1946) by David Tett [10A]

Postal Rates of Chile, 1766-1959 by Ross Towle [10A]

Regno d'Italia by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi [10A]

Samos, 1821–1945 by Abraam Kosmidis [10A]

Serbia, 1804–1918: History, Posts, and Postmarks by Vojislav Micovic [10A]

Subject Index and Bibliography for Tasmanian Philately by David McNamee [10A]

U.S. Five Cent Stamp of 1856: The Frederick R. Mayer Collection, Collectors Club [10A]

Vaccari Magazine (Nos. 33-34), Vaccari SRL [10B]

Zanaria Catalogue of the Stamps of Vittorio Emanuele II by D. Zanaria, G. Serra, A. Zanaria [10C]

#### Vermeil (39 awarded)

Asia Pacific Exhibitor, International Association for Philatelic Exhibitors [10B]

Bibliography of Philatelic Armenia by Souren Arakelov and Michael Arakelyan [10A]

Boletim, Clube Filatélico de Portugal [10B]

Canadian Philatelist/Le Philatéliste Canadien, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada [10B]

Catalogo Especializado de los Sellos de Cuba (Vol. 1–2), Edifil [10C] Civil War Era Occupational Licenses, 1863–1873 by John Alan Hicks [10A]

Classic Postmarks of Hungary by Tamas Gudlin [10C]

Fakes, Forgeries, Experts (Vol. 8) by Knud Mohr [10A]

First Greek Stamp: History, Royal Decrees, Dies, Plates, Printing by Nicholas Asimakopulos [10A]

Fiscali del Dodecaneso by Michele Petradakis [10A]

Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps, Royal Expert Committee [10A]

Handbook of Danish Essays (Vol. 2: 1920–1939) by William R. Benfield [10A]

Historia do Servico Postal Militar by Eduardo and Luis Barreiros [10A]

*Indian Airmails: Development and Operation, 1911–1942* by Pradip Jain [10A]

*Japanese Occupation Stamps in Southeast Asia* by Masayoshi Tsuchiya [10A]

*Journal*, France and Colonies Philatelic Society [10B] *Journal (Vol. 47)*, United Postal Stationery Society [10B]

JSCA Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalog 2006, Japan Philatelic Society Foundation [10C]

*Kiku Shimbun*, Japan Stamp Group and U.K. Chapter of the International Society for Japanese Philately [10B]

Madame Joseph Revisited by Brian Michael Cartwright [10A]

Men, Microbes, and Medical Microbiologists by Han Siem [10A] Mute Cancels of Russia, 1914–1917 by Arnold Levin [10A]

New Zealand and Dependencies: A Philatelic Bibliography by

Allan P. Berry and David R. Beech [10A]

\*Newspaper Stamps of Denmark by Lars Jorgensen [10A]

Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift Kinhenhavns Philatelist

Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, Kjobenhavns Philatelist Klub [10B]

Nordland Post Office: On Land and at Sea by Tore Gjelsvik [10A] Numeral Cancellations of Victoria, Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Inc. [10A]

Philotelia, Hellenic Philotelic Society [10B]

Pony Express: A Postal History, The Philatelic Foundation [10A] Postage Stamps of Russia and USSR 1857–1991 by Vladimir Solovyov [10C]

Postal History of Aden and Somaliland Protectorate by Edward Proud [10A]

Postal History of Ascension, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha by Edward Proud [10A]

*Postanski Manipulativni Zigovi Hrvatske*, 1941–45 by Dragutin Cividini [10A]

RF Revista de Filatelia, Edifil [10B]

Russo-Japanese War: History and Postal History by Kenneth Clark [10A]

Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies by Stefan Heijtz [10C]

Stamps of the Zemstvo Posts of Russia by Ilia Strebulaev [10C] Vaccari Catalogue of Postage Stamps and Postal History, 2006–2007, Vaccari SRL [10C]

Venezia e la Sanità by Franco Rigo [10A]

#### Large Silver (29 awarded)

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Additional Data to the 1850 Kreuzer and Centes Stamp Issue by István Kecsedy [10A]

Afghanistan: The "Horst Dietrich" Grand Prix Collection, David Feldman Auctions [10C]

Airpost Journal, American Air Mail Society [10B]

\*Brazil's "Bull's Eyes": First Stamps of the Americas, 1843 by Luis Alemany [10A]

Catalogue of the Postage and Revenue Stamps of Hungary, Philatelia Hungarica LLC [10C]

Censorship of Correspondence in Poland, 1918–1922 by Bronislaw Brzozowski and Jerzy Tokar [10A]

Characteristiques des Correspondances du Bresil Pour la France au XIX Siecle by Philippe Damian & Klerman Lopes [10A]

Chinese Airmails and Their Forgeries by David Lu [10A]

*Cinderella Philatelist*, Cinderella Stamp Club [10B] *Croatia Issues*, 1941–1945 by Philip J. Hughes [10D]

Danish Advertising Panes by James A. Gaudet [10A]

E Distributed to the Control of the

Forerunners, Philatelic Society for Greater South Africa [10B] Historical-Research Philatelic Bulletin, Polskiego Związku Filatelistów [10B]

"Lady Hope" Collection, David Feldman Auctions [10C]

Lansa Story by Alfredo Frohlich [10A]

Las Tarjetas Postales Ilustradas de España Circuladas en el s. XIX by Martin Carrasco [10A]

Letzte Post der Kriegsgefangenen des Zweiten Weltkrieges by Hans-Werner Boddenberg [10A]

Lokal-og distriksforsendelser i provinsen i 1800 tallet by Kurt Hansen [10A]

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Postal History of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1878–1918 by Berislav Sekelj [10A]

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Thai Postal Stationery Catalog 2006 (Thailand Philatelic Handbook 6) by Richard Blakeney [10C]

\*Thematic Philately Handbook by Dusko Stojsavljevic [10A] Trieste-Venezia, il Vapore nell'800 by Franco Rigo [10A]

Vorläufer, German Colonies Collectors Group [10B]

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Warsaw Uprising Post 1944 by Stanislaw F. Ozimek [10A] Zemstvo Catalogue on CD for PC by Vladimir Novoselov [10D]

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Ambulants postaux de la Compagnie de chemin de fer du Grand Tronc by Jean-Pierre Forest [10A]

American Philatelic Congress Book 2005, American Philatelic Congress [10A]

Artistic Journey from Croatia to Sweden by Zlatko Jakus [10A] Astrophile Journal of Astrophilately, Space Topics Study Group [10B]

\*Beating the Odds: The Story of Tattersall's Private Mail Network, 1902–1930, Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Inc. [10A]

Between Serration and Rim: Stamps and Coins as a Mirror of German History by Hans-Jürgen Ende [10A]

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Censuren i Danmark, 1940–1947 by Otto Kjaergaard [10A] Chile Filatelico, Sociedad Filatelica de Chile [10B]

Computers on Stamps and Stationery (Vol. 2) by Larry Dodson [10A]

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Darnell Stamps of Canada Catalogue by Lyse Rousseau [10C]

Durostorum, Drastar, Silistra: Centuries, Posts, Traditions by Boris Kalinkov [10A]

Emision de Periodicos 1862 by Carlos Romero [10A]

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First Olympic Games 1896 Commemorative Issue by Georgios Sparis [10A]

First Days, American First Day Covers Society [10B] Handbook of the Postal Cards of the World's Columbian

Exposition by Kenneth Wukasch [10A]

Hellas 2006, Stamps & Postal History of Greece (Vols. 1–2) by Argyrios Karamitsos [10C]

Historia Postal del Correo Aereo del Paraguay by Osvaldo Portaluppi et al. [10A]

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+Indian Airmail Letter/Inland Letter/Airmail Post Cards With Advertisements and Slogans by Surendra Kotadia [10A]

Lovrenc Kosir: A Biography, Filatelistična zveza Slovenije [10A] Mexico Philatelic Study of Definitive Issue, 1950–1975 by Victor A. S. Alba [10A]

Panama Postal Markings, 1758–1950 by James Cross [10A] Philatelic Handbook on Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi by Reuben A. Ramkissoon [10A]

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Postal History of World War II Mail between New Zealand and Switzerland by Robin Startup and Charles LaBlonde [10A]

Postal Stationery Collector, Postal Stationery Society of Australia [10B]

Posthistorisk Tidsskrift 2005 by OTTO Kjaergaard [10B]

Posthorn, Scandinavian Collectors Club [10B]

Provat, Burfantu, Obech, Provadia: Centuries, Posts, Traditions by Boris Kalinkov [10A]

Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke by Harry Birkhead & Joh Groenewald [10A]

Re-engravings of the 20 Kr. Stamp of the 1876–1881 Hungarian Issue by Lovász András [10A]

Republika Hrvatska: Postanske Marke i Novac 2006 by Julije Maras [10C]

Reseña Filatélica, Hector David Bisoglio [10B]

Revenue Stamped Paper and Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Belgium, 1648–2003 by Emile van den Panhuyzen [10A]

Revista Amexfil, Asociación Mexicana de Filatelia A.C. [10B]

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Revista Filatélica-Philatelic Magazine, CEFAI [10B]

Sakura Catalog of Japanese Stamps 2006, Japan Philatelic Society Foundation [10C]

Shovel, Israel Philatelic Federation [10B]

Specialized Catalogue of Postage Stamps and Stationery of Latvia by Egils Plume [10C]

Spezial-Katalog "Zusammendrucke und Markenheftchen der DDR" by Eberhard Richter [10C]

Tourist Sheets and Booklets of Japan (ISJP Monograph 17) by Ron Casey [10A]

Variant Color Datestamps of Japan, 1904–1934 by Charles A. L. Swenson [10A]

World War II Mail from Switzerland to Great Britain, Canada, and the United States by Charles LaBlonde [10A]

#### Silver Bronze (44 awarded)

Apuntes de Maximofilia, Asociación Española de Maximophilia [10B]

Atalaya Filatélica y Numismática, Sociedad Filatélica Sevillana [10B]

Bibliography of Danish West Indies Philately by Paul Wijnants [10A] Bibliography of Foreign Postage Stamps Articles seen through Japanese Philatelic Magazines (Part 2, 1980–1999) by Yukihiro Shoda [10A]

Boletín Aeropostal, Sociedad Argentina de Aerofilatelia [10B]

British North Borneo: Brunei and Sarawak Post-War Issues and the Crown Agents by W. N. Watterson [10A]

Canadian Aerophilatelist, Canadian Aerophilatelic Society [10B] Canadian Connection (Vol. 9), Canadiana Study Unit [10B]

Canadian Philatelic EFOs by Lyse Rousseau [10C]

Catalogue of Overprints on Postcards of the Republic of Croatia by Marijan Segedin [10C]

Catalogue "Fauna" by Alexander Nikitin [10C]

Catalogue of Philatelic Material of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus by Valery Kudrin [10D]

Croatian Philately, Croatian Philatelic Federation [10B]

*Briefmarken der Zeitzer Privatpost Courier, 1893–1900* by Hubert Tretner [10A]

Catalogue of Postage Stamps of Ukraine, Ukrposhta (Ukrainian State Enterprise of Post) [10C]

# A Judge Reflects on the Literature Competition

By Francis E. Kiddle

The Fédération Internationale de Philatélie literature competition at the *Washington 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition was superb in both quality and quantity. We gave a large gold medal which is something that does not happen very often. The large number of literature entries is really excellent.

I was pleased that *WASHINGTON 2006* accepted electronic media into the competition, even though compact discs take far too long to judge when the judging team has only three days to complete its task.

As is happening with most international literature classes

handbooks get stronger and journals get weaker from a judging point of view.

Philatelic journals have become far more linked to the social side of philately rather than the more serious learned article. I am not saying that this is wrong, because market forces (i.e., members) dictate what is published. However, you will note that most journals were down in the low silver to bronze awards.

Our current philatelic audience is greatly privileged in that there are so many good books being published throughout the world. The only complaint I have is that far too few philatelists are prepared to spend money on books, and that is why far too often print runs are so small.

Commemorative Greek Cancels, 1969–1980 by Nicholas Bergiopoulos [10A]

Delagoa Bay Story by Leo M. A. Crandel [10A] E-Flagstaff, King George V Silver Jubilee Study Circle [10D] Exercise Book for Philately, Filatelistična zveza Slovenije [10A] Formosa, Taiwan by Chih-Hsin Lee [10A]

Handbook of Russian Aerophilately by Rudolph Najar [10A]
Ice Cap News, American Society of Polar Philatelists [10B]
Insects on Stamps (ATA Handbook 150) by Don Wright [10A]
Israel Philatelist (Vol. 56), Society of Israel Philatelists [10B]
Italian Perfins Catalogue (Update 2005), Vaccari SRL [10C]
Journal of Sports Philately, Sports Philatelist International [10B]
Legacy of 1000 Years by Jacob Femifola Durosomo [10D]
Life and Work of Mozart: A Philatelic Journey by Doyen
Nguyen [10D]

Pilgrim Pope: John Paul II on Postage Stamps of the World, 1978-2005 by Waldemar Chrostowski [10A]

Primeros Correos Aereos a Isla de Pascua y Territorio Chileno Antartico by Freddy Lemus [10A]

"Max, I Didn't Know Him Very Well", American Airmail Society [10A]

Mitteilungsblätter, Ar-Ge Ungarn [10B]

Philateliya Ukrainy, Ukrposhta (Ukrainian State Enterprise of Post) [10B]

Popular's Pakistan Postage Stamp Catalogue by A. Latif Rashed [10C]

Postage Stamp for a Day: The Trinidad World War I Red Cross Charity Label by Reuben A. Ramkissoon [10A]

Revista Filatelica, Centro Filatélico de Cochabamba [10B] Rundbriefe, ArGe Bezirksstempelaufdrucke SBZ 1948 e.V. [10B] Sarawak and Brunei: The De La Rue Ink Colours by W. N. Watterson [10A]

Stamping Around, Mid-Cities Stamp Club [10B]
Tiradas de la Cifra de 5 cts. Emision 10.1.1866 by Sergio
Wolman [10A]

"Ugly Duckling": Hans Christian Andersen and Danish Stamps by Niels H. Bundgaard [10A] Unificato Filagrano Catalogue of Italian Postal Stationery (2006/2007), Sintoni SRL/Vaccari SRL [10C]

United States and British Exchanges with Japan, 1942–1943 by Michael E. Ruggiero [10A]

Yushu, Japan Philatelic Society Foundation [10B]

#### Bronze (10 awarded)

Boletín Filatélico Guadalajara, Boletín Filatélico Guadalajara [10B] *Philatelic Hagada* by Moshe Rimer [10A]

Clase Abierta by Ramón Cortés de Haro and Manuel Cruz [10A] Postage Stamps of Ukraine 2004, Ukrposhta (Ukrainian State Enterprise of Post) [10A]

Olymphil, Croatian Society of Olympic and Sport Philately [10B] Komi Republican Signs of the Post Payments by Konstantin Shapovalov [10D]

Stamp Collecting: A Passion by Nasser Bin Ahamad Al Serkal [10A] Dijkenaartje, Hobby en Verzamelclub Begijnendijk [10B] Mundo Filatélico by Luis Enrique Dorado Vásquez [10B] Postal History of Zara by Jurica George Miletic [10A]

#### Special Prizes (2 awarded)

Charles and Lanny Peterson Prize: *Prefilatelia Española* (Vols. 1-4) by Manuel Tizon

MYSTIC STAMP COMPANY PRIZE: *Philatelic Literature: History and Bibliography (Vol. 4)* by Manfred Amrhein

#### **Transfer of Class**

Eco Filatelico y Numismatico, Jaia Publicaciones [10B], transferred from literature to hors concours

#### Failed to Arrive

Former Soviet Union New Issues, 1991–2005 by Anatoly Kiryushkin [10D]



- With felicitations of the jury.
- + Surendra Kotadia's three literature entries were combined and judged as a single exhibit.



As of July 22, 2006

#### **New Members**

**1918** George Michaels, 20D James Buchanan Drive, Monroe Twp., NH 08831-4843. Beginning as a philatelic writer. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

**1919** Peter W. F. Adgie, 4825 S. Azmmons Street, Apt. 115, Littleton, CO 80123. Editor: *Regional Area Stamp Clubs Newsletter*. Sponsor: Jane King Fohn.

**1920** Jeffrey Hayward, 163 Baden Place, Staten Island, NY 10306-6048. Columnist: *Nature's Wonders* (ATA Earth's Physical Features Study Unit). Sponsor: Lloyd de Vries.

**1921** George T. Fekete, 111 Dale Road, Rochester, NY 14625-2009. Editor: *ROPEX Show Program* (2000 to present); Columnist: *Stamp Insider*. Sponsor: Albert W. Starkweather.

**1922** Ronald E. Hill, 7590 West Caley Drive, Littleton, CO 80123. Owner and Publisher: *National Trade Show Press* (1985–2000); Publications Committee: Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Sponsor: Peter Adgie.

**1923** Thomas W. Broadhead, 4404 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN 37918. Editor: *Knoxville Philatelic Society Newsletter*; Freelance Writer: *American Philatelist*, *French & Colonies Philatelist*. Sponsor: Jane King Fohn.

**1924** William (Ron) Mitchell, 9431 West Jewell Place, Lakewood, CO 80227-2221. Editor: *Scribblings* (Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

#### **Change of Address**

1198 Ken Sanford, 613 Championship Drive, Oxford, CT 06478 1303 Cheryl R. Ganz, P. O. Box 77196, Washington, DC 20013 **1527** Barth Healey, 220 Montauk Hwy. #16, P. O. Box 277, Speonk, NY 11972

1850 Robert Dumaine, P. O. Box 820087, Houston, TX 77282-0087

#### About Writers Unit #30

The purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communication, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to any philatelic writer, columnist, editor, or publisher — and anyone interested in philatelic communication.

#### Join Us Today

Join Writers Unit #30 now and begin reaping the benefits of membership, including your subscription to *THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR*. Applications received before October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and these members will receive all issues of *THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR* for the calendar year.

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George Griffenhagen, WU #30 Secretary-Treasurer 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180-6906

#### Philately of Yore — Continued from Cover

Another ad in this issue of *Bay State Philatelist* reflects the international nature of the hobby. Mario Distefano Ecora of Italy offered subscriptions to his monthly magazine *Il Mongibello Filatelico*. It was published in Italian, French, and Spanish and had a circulation of 1,000.

The last journal I would like to mention is basically a non-philatelic magazine, again in the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inch format, called *The Literary Gem*. Its *Editress*, Miss E. M. Johnston, along with short stories and poems, ran a column simply titled *Stamps* by *V. R. I.* In the May 1901 issue (Vol. 3, No. 3), the stamp column described U.S. official stamps as well as recent revenues of Canada including bill stamps, supreme court, gas inspection, weights and measures, and electric light inspection stamps.

Philatelic journalism was alive and well in the late 19th century as seen with these examples, which were but a fraction of the stamp journals in print at that time.

HARRY MYRON KONWISER (Sept. 4, 1879–Jan. 29, 1961) was an outstanding student, writer, and expert on U.S. postal history. He wrote extensively on the postal markings of the pre-adhesive period of U.S. philately, and published his *United States Stampless Cover Catalog* in 1936. This was reprinted five times by various publishers between 1938 and 1952.

Konwiser was one of the hobby's most prolific writers. Among his books are *Colonial and Revolutionary Posts* (1931), *Texas Republic Postal System* (1933), *Konwiser's Check List of Air Mail Covers* (1942), *American Philatelic Dictionary* (1947), and *The American Stamp Collector's Dictionary* (1949). Konwiser's columns in *Stamps* magazine, were copyrighted and edited by David L. Jarrett, and published as *Postal Markings* in 1980.

In 1961, he was named to APS Hall of Fame which provided his biographical information and photo.

Acknowledgment: I want to thank Luff Award winner Charles A. Fricke for lending me the materials used for this article.

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